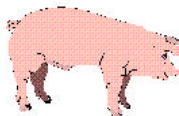




## ANIMAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

### Animal Health and Food Safety Services



#### Biosecurity Tips for Exhibiting Swine



##### Introduction

The Animal Health Branch recommends that swine exhibits, when possible, be terminal events. If events include breeding stock, disease transmission can be minimized if the animals leave the premises before market animals arrive. The least desirable option is to have both classes present at the same time, in which case special emphasis should be placed on biosecurity. Whenever terminal shows are not possible, we recommend the following guidelines to minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Anytime animals from different sources have direct animal-to-animal contact there is a risk they may transmit new diseases to each other and carry the diseases back to their herdmates. Importantly, disease may also be transmitted by contaminated people, animal housing and bedding, feeding and grooming equipment, transportation vehicles, or other objects that come in contact with animals or their bodily fluids or excretions. Indirect transmission may also occur through airborne spread of aerosols and dust by insects such as flies. The roles of both direct and indirect disease transmission should be considered when developing a biosecurity plan for exhibiting swine.

##### Biosecurity before the Exhibit

Swine from different sources should not be commingled prior to the fair. If collecting blood samples, weighing the animal, ear tagging for identification, or if other procedures must occur prior to the fair, avoid commingling of swine. Two possible ways to perform pre-fair activities while avoiding commingling are:

**Option 1:** conducting organized community days with animals remaining at their home facility and “procedure crews” traveling between premises, or

**Option 2:** bringing animals to a centralized location for procedures but maintaining separation of animals from different facilities.

Regardless of the option chosen, biosecurity practices should be strictly enforced to minimize disease transmission between groups of animals.

Specific recommendations for performing pre-fair procedures according to these two options include:

- ◆ All swine should remain at their home facility (Option 1) or in their trailers (Option 2).
- ◆ Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling animals. This is especially important between groups of animals from different facilities.
- ◆ Always clean and disinfect rubber footwear between facilities (Option 1) or trailers (Option 2) to decrease the risk of cross contamination. For maximum biosecurity, change coveralls also. Disposable coveralls, obtained from veterinary supply outlets or feed stores, can be removed and discarded after contact with each group of animals. Failure to change coveralls increases the risk of indirect disease transmission.
- ◆ Always clean and disinfect equipment (scales, hog snares, blood collection equipment, etc.) between facilities (Option 1) or handling pigs in different trailers (Option 2).
- ◆ One Stroke Environ<sup>®</sup>, Nolvasan<sup>®</sup>, Clorox<sup>®</sup> solutions or any comparable anti-viral, anti-bacterial disinfectant should be used to disinfect physically cleaned surfaces after contact with a group of animals from a single facility. Be careful to follow the manufacturer’s directions for proper dilution and use.
- ◆ Avoid contaminating your own vehicle by removing your boots and coveralls and washing your hands prior to entering the vehicle. Place used cloth coveralls in a plastic bag.

## Biosecurity at the Exhibit

Swine from different premises that are exhibited at breeding shows should be kept separated. Every effort should be made to provide as much distance between groups of animals as possible. As distance between animals increases, so does the amount of biosecurity provided. Open panels and fencing that allow animal-to-animal contact provide little, if any, biosecurity. Solid paneling, at least three feet high, provides some biosecurity, whereas a vacant pen separating animals from different facilities is ideal. Physical separation minimizes aerosol transmission of disease agents and prevents direct animal-to-animal contact. Proper ventilation should be provided. Avoid commingling of animals at the wash rack and in transit to and from pens. The show ring should be the only place commingling of animals from different premises can occur. Aisles should be kept clean and any bedding, urine, or manure should be removed promptly.

Because people may be responsible for transmitting disease agents indirectly between groups of swine, you should take the following precautions to minimize the risk:

- ◆ Feeding and watering equipment, or other animal care supplies, should never be shared by swine from different premises.
- ◆ Avoid entering the pens of or contacting animals from other premises. If you must contact swine from different premises, you should:
  - Wash your hands properly
  - Thoroughly clean and disinfect your rubber boots
  - Change your protective coverallsThese precautions should be taken before and after handling a group of animals.
- ◆ Remember that your face, hair, and eyeglasses can easily become contaminated by touching them while handling animals. Special attention should be paid to avoid contamination of these areas by wearing a cap, tying back long hair, and making sure eyeglasses fit snugly. If contaminated, these areas should be washed with soap and water.

## General Biosecurity Precautions

General biosecurity precautions should be practiced both at the home facility and while exhibiting at fairs:

- ◆ Maintain hygiene of animal housing and promptly remove soiled bedding.
- ◆ Immediately isolate sick animals from the group and begin appropriate treatment. Be careful when isolating sick animals to isolate feeding equipment and other inanimate objects that may be in contact with them. These objects, when shared with other animals, may spread disease. If animals become ill at the exhibit, consult your veterinarian prior to transporting them back to your herd. Do not risk the health of your entire herd for one animal.
- ◆ Upon returning home, quarantine animals for at least 60 days so they will have a chance to show signs of any disease(s) they may have acquired during the exhibit. Consult with your veterinarian about having animals tested for evidence of exposure to certain diseases prior to allowing them contact with your home herd.
- ◆ Transport animals in your own vehicle and do not pick up or deliver pigs on the way to or from the exhibit.

“Swine Biosecurity”, a CDFA Animal Health Fact Sheet, May 1998, contains additional useful information on biosecurity and disease prevention in swine herds.

**This document was developed at the request of, and in collaboration with, the California Farm Bureau Federation Swine Advisory Committee, and with the assistance of the University of California Veterinary Medicine Extension.**

### For additional information, call:

#### Animal Health Branch

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### Or visit our website at:

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/animal/animal\\_health/index.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/animal/animal_health/index.html)